

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, August 19. 1708.

WHAT a wild Fellow was this *Review*, said the People a while ago, when he was urging the Advantages which might be obtain'd over the *French*, by falling in upon the *Spanish* Galleons in the *West*—— A Paper full of Chimera's said another, a Thing remote said another— And yet you find, Gentlemen, that this remote Thing is come to pass, this mighty Wonder that few troubled their Heads with; and here are actually three of the Galleons destroy'd, and as they tell us, a Millions in *Spies* taken from the Enemy.

The *Bruty* is large, the Attempt very happy, but the Disappointment to the Enemy exceeds it all. What a Support to their Affairs both in *Spain* and in *France*,

what Encouragement to their drooping Affairs, what a Supply to their Armies and Magazines in *Catalonia*, what Assistance to them in every Part this would have been, any Body may judge, that knows what their Affairs have really suffer'd for Want of Money, for Want of timely Supplies.

It is to be noted also, that the Loss here falls especially upon the King of *Spain's* Share in the Galleons, the Admiral and Vice-Admiral being destroy'd and taken, in which the King's particular Part of the Wealth lay; and really could the Losses of War only have fallen upon the Publick on either side, on the publick Part of Affairs. Could that Money, or those Ships, or Men be seiz'd and made Prize of, which are design'd to annoy one another, the War would

would go on, and we should have no Concern upon us for our Enemies Losses.

But when we consider even in this Disaster of our Enemies the Losses of the innocent Merchant, the Numbers of rich flourishing Families, who having been gathering Wealth in the *Indies* many Years, were now singing *Requiems* to themselves, and going Home to enjoy it, and in a Moment 800 People, and all the Wealth with them blown the first into Eternity, and the other to the Bottom of the Sea—— When we see the other reduced from wealthy Circumstances and great Fortunes, to Captivity in the Hands of their Enemies, and the *English* Seamen reveling in their Treasure; I say, could we abstract these Things from the Affair of the War, we could not but shed a Tear for the Miseries and Disasters of the honest Merchant, the innocent Produce of whose Labour and Travail is thus swallow'd up at once in the common Disasters.

O the miserable State of Mankind, who on so many Occasions becomes a Prey, and is expos'd to the Rapine and voracious Temper of his own Kind— What do Nations and People suffer for the Lust, and to gratify the insatiable Ambition of you, *O Tyrants*, You the Destroyers of the World, the Firebrands of Nations, the Plague of your Fellow-Creatures? What has *France* and *Spain* to lay to the Charge of the Ambition and unbounded Pride of usurping Monarchs? What Blood, what Destruction, what Ruin does poor *Spain* feel to determine that mighty Insignificance, which of two Boys should govern them? Well might the King of *France* say at the News of the Battle of *Audenard*, *O Spain, what Blood you cost!* He should rather have said, *O Tyrant, O Invader, what Blood you spill!* What Seas of Blood do you sacrifice to the Glory of the House of *Bourbon*?—Mighty Sham! The Glory of Ambition, the Glory of mighty Robbery and Rapine, the Glory of unsatisfy'd Avarice, and Lust of Rule—Is this the Glory of Man to ruin and destroy his Fellow Creatures, and lay waste the Creation? Such Glory will end in Destruction; and tho' GOD in his Infinite Wisdom may permit such Monsters as these

to ravage his own Glorious Works, and in Judgment let them loose like wild Beasts upon the Earth, yet he always brings them down at last, and they end in Stench and Abhorrence—— Nor can it indeed be otherwise, the very Nature and Being of GOD, who is Infinitely Good, is directly contrary to the wicked and ambitious Projects of an exalted Tyrant, an excellent and useful Reflection for those who sanctify all the villainous Excursions of such Beasts of Prey, purely upon the Article of their wearing a Crown, as if such Monsters as these were Sacred by Office, and Fiends incarnate grew Saints by the Sanction of a Scepter. Hear the Censure of a true Satyr on that Subject.

*To say such Kings, Lord, rule by thee,
Is most prodigious Blasphemy;
If such Kings are by GOD appointed,
The DEVIL may be the Lord's anointed.*

And. Marvel.

Well, tho' I must acknowledge, I pity the poor Merchants who are ruin'd by these Losses, and by which the general Industry of Mankind receives a Shock; yet I cannot but rejoice at the Discomfiture and Disappointment of our Enemies: And I am persuaded, if this Blow can be follow'd with but this wish'd-for Success of keeping the Galleons in *America* another Year, and sending Monsieur *De Casse* Home without them, it may be a greater Blow to the *French* Affairs, than the Battle of *Audenard*, if there had been such a Thing could be, or a Victory at *Audenard*, if that had been either—— But we must not call it a Victory, it seems.

Mad Man. I thought you would have a Fling at your mad Man, I know you are bantering me now, you little thought I was so near you——I am in the right of it still.

Rev. O, are you there? Yes, yes, mad Men are always in the right.

M. I challenge you all to disprove it.

Rev. What, have you Impudence enough still to say there was no Battle at *Audenard*?

M. Look

M. Look you, let us have no more Debate about it, it told you plainly enough the Case; it is necessary to my Employers, that the Noise of a Victory, which at present is unseasonable to their Affairs, should be sunk and run down a little, and this I find the shortest way to bring it about; for I tell you, if the Battle be but believ'd, *Old Harry* cannot beat the Victory out of Peoples Heads; but bring them once to agree, there was no Battle, and I won't give a Farthing for the Fable of a Victory; but you need not be so much upon your Triumphs

neither New nor Old, it's the same Case in America. I'll prove in my next, you have taken none of the Gallies neither, nor blown up any, or run a shoar any, and how foolishly you will look with all your mighty Joy, when the Truth of that Story appears.

Rev. You will be a terrible Fellow if you can do this.

M. I warrant you, take my Word for it.

Rev. Indeed we shall look foolishly if that were so—— But I fear you not, nor all your Malecontent Tribe of *Bedlam*, do your worst.

MISCELLANEA.

THE Gentlemen that cannot bear this Story of the Episcopal Clergy in *Scotland*, and begin to grow out of Temper at it already, show very little Judgment and less Manners in their Haste— Could they have but Patience to hear it out, they shall have full Answers to all their Objections, if Reason and Matter of Fact will answer them; as for those that are not desirous of Reasoning and Matters of Fact, and whose Conduct has been so violent this way, that Reason and Matters of Fact are not the safest Things for them, I can only say, all their Clamour will have no Effect here, the Story must go on—— And I believe they would do their Party and their Friends in *Scotland* less Injury to be quiet, and let the Story be told fairly, in which I will endeavour to do even the *Jacobites* themselves no Injury, but singly relate Matter of Fact first; and if I find Occasion for Reflections, they shall be such, as I shall venture to say, shall stand the Test both for Truth and good Manners.

"To the Right Honourable the Lord, Provost and Bailies of the good Town of *Edinburgh*. The Representation of the Episcopal Ministers and Preachers in Meeting-Houses, by Way of Answer to the Libel raised against them, at the Instance of *Samuel Grey*, Procr. Fiscal to the good Town,

Humblly Sheweth,

"THAT where we are indicted as Criminals before your Honours, accused as Persons manifestly disaffected to her Majesty's Government, and guilty of the Breaches of Acts of Parliament, particularly of the 16th Act of the Convention of Estates, Anno 1699, requiring all Ministers publicly to pray for the King and Queen then reigning. And of the 6th Act of the Parliament holden in 1693, requiring all Preachers and Ministers of the Gospel to take the Oath of Allegiance, and to subscribe the same with the Assurance in the Terms, and under the Certifications mention'd in the said Acts. And further it is libel'd against us, that we out of a seditious Principle against her Majesty's Government, and the Peace and Security of the Kingdom are regardless and negligent in Observance of publick Fasts and Thanksgivings. Which Accusations being (as the Libel altogether) notorious, and proving themselves, therefore it's concluded, that we having incur'd the Pains of Law, ought to be decerned to desist from preaching or keeping Meeting-Houses within the Bounds of the good Town, and to find Caution for that Effect, or otherwise be imprison'd, until due Obedience be given.

" For

" For Answer to this Libel, we take
 " Leave in the 1st. Place to urge some
 " Reasons, as well against the Formality
 " of the Procedure, as against the Competency and Relevancy of the Libel; and
 " in the next Place shall offer such Answers
 " as founded upon the Rules and Principles both of Charity and Christianity.

" The Informality of Procedure, as we
 " humbly conceive, is evident from the
 " 72d. Act, 6th. Year, Jam. V. Whereby
 " it's Statute and Ordain'd, that all Citations upon the Precepts of Inferiour
 " Judges shall be upon 15 Days, which
 " tho' it may be said to be in desuetude
 " as to Citations within Burgh, in Relation
 " to Civil Wars or petty Delinquences,
 " yet it ought to be duly observ'd in the
 " Citations given by Libels Criminal, of
 " which Sort the present is, that so Defendants may not for Want of Time be overreach'd, but have a full Allowance thereof to prepare and defend against such high Accusations.

" 2. Th^t by the 22d. Act of King
 " William's Parliament, Anno 1695, Sheriffs, Stewards, and their Deputies, and
 " the Magistrates of Burghs Royal, are
 " authorized and required to put in Execution the said Law, whereby the intruding into vacant Churches, and exercising
 " any Part of the Ministerial Function within any Parish without an orderly Call,
 " and Legal Admission is discharg'd,
 " yet the Execution must be in such a
 " Method, as the said Act prescribes, viz.
 " Upon a Complaint from the Presbytery,
 " within whose Bounds the said Illegal Exercise is, or any Person having their
 " Warrant, and upon Citation of 10 Days.
 " And therefore in the present Case there
 " being no Complaint from the Presbytery,
 " or any having their Warrant, and the Citation not being upon 10 Days, but upon
 " a far shorter Time, the Procedure appears
 " unwarrantable.

" In like manner it is with Submission
 " contended, that the Magistrates of the

" good Town are not Judges competent
 " of this Libel, because its chiefly founded
 " upon the 6th Act of King William and
 " Queen Mary's Parliament, Anno 1693,
 " requiring all Ministers and Preachers of
 " the Gospel to take the Oath of Allegiance, and subscribe the Assurance, whereas by the said Act it's provided, that the
 " Contraveners shall be punish'd by Banishment, or otherways as the Council
 " (meaning the Privy-Council) shall think
 " fit. And therefore the Libel is improperly tabled here, since Magistrates of
 " Royal Burghs cannot competently judge
 " therein.

" Adhering to our foresaid Dilator defenses clearly founded upon the express
 " Acts of Parliament above-cited, and
 " which we crave *ante omnia* to be discussed.

The Remaining Part of this Representation shall follow in our next.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

A Physician of Eminence and great Practice in Venereal Diseases, in Compassion to such who are distemper'd, and either thro' Ignorance and Indigence, neglect timely Care, or fall into unskillful Hands for Cure, has thought fit to offer some gentle purging Pills, to be purchas'd at a small Price, which alone (without Hinderance of Business, or other Inconveniency, and usually in 10 or 12 Days Time) safely and compleatly cure any Gonorrhæa, or Running of the Reins, with Heat and Sharpness of Urine, and also such as are ill cur'd, they clear of all Relicks of the said Disease. To be had at the Water-Man's Arms behind old Round-Court in the Strand, at 3s. a Box, containing several Doses, seal'd up, with printed Directions for their Use, and will be deliver'd to any Messenger.